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**UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION**

of

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for

**Wick Trimmer**

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## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### **1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a wick trimmer. More particularly, the present invention relates to a wick trimmer with a measuring foot that facilitates the effective cutting 5 of a wick to an appropriate length.

### **2. Background and Related Art**

Wick trimmers are often used in order to shorten a wick to an appropriate length. Sometimes wicks need to be shortened because candles are sold with wicks that are too long 10 or because candle wicks become too long after a period of burning. Failing to trim wicks to an appropriate length can result in a fire hazard.

However, achieving a proper wick trim can be problematic. Existing wick trimmers fail to accurately or easily measure an appropriate wick length. This is because they either rely on the human eye to judge the appropriate wick length or because they are difficult to 15 negotiate.

Many existing wick cutters also fail to effectively cut through wicks. Wicks consist of a metal filament that presents difficulties for many wick cutters that are either unsharpened or not sturdy enough to create clean wick cuts.

In addition, many wick cutters do not fit into some designs of candle holders. For 20 instance, wick cutters with scissor-like designs do not fit into narrow candle holders.

Also, many wick cutters fail to catch the wick after it is cut, leaving a candle cluttered with old wick pieces.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a novel wick trimmer. More particularly, the present invention relates to a wick trimmer with a measuring foot that facilitates the effective cutting of a wick to an appropriate length.

5       Implementation of the present invention takes place in association with a candle, a wick and a wick trimmer. In one implementation, the wick trimmer cuts a wick to a predetermined length. This increases the safety of candle usage by decreasing the fire hazard caused by a long wick. Where multiple-wicks are presented near each other, such as in multi-wick candles or a set of candles, the uniformity of wick length also creates a more  
10      aesthetically pleasing appearance.

In another implementation, the measuring foot has a uniform thickness. The thickness of the measuring foot facilitates the effectiveness of the cuts produced by the wick trimmer.

In a related implementation, the measuring foot has a cutting edge, which when combined with the thickness of the measuring foot, produces effective, clean cuts on all parts  
15      of the cutting edge.

In yet another implementation, the measuring foot has a debris tray formed on the top portion of the measuring foot. The debris tray catches the wick after it is cut, leaving the candle uncluttered by old wick pieces.

In another implementation, the wick trimmer comprises two arms that are connected  
20      together. Variable cutting strength is created along the cutting edge because the angles of the arms are slightly different. In a related implementation, the angles of the arms allow the wick trimmer to access the wicks of candles that are housed in candle holders with very narrow openings.

In another implementation, the middle portion of both arms is angled to a degree that facilitates the overlap and attachment of both arms onto each other.

In another implementation, the wick trimmer is made out of stainless steel.

In another implementation, the cutting edge is serrated.

5 While the methods and processes of the present invention have proven to be particularly useful in the area of wick trimming, those skilled in the art can appreciate that the methods and processes can be used in a variety of different applications and in a variety of different areas of manufacture to yield effective trimming results.

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will be set forth or 10 will become more fully apparent in the description that follows and in the appended claims.

The features and advantages may be realized and obtained by means of the instruments and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims. Furthermore, the features and advantages of the invention may be learned by the practice of the invention or will be obvious from the description, as set forth hereinafter.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

In order that the manner in which the above recited and other features and advantages of the present invention are obtained, a more particular description of the invention will be rendered by reference to specific embodiments thereof, which are illustrated in the appended 5 drawings. Understanding that the drawings depict only typical embodiments of the present invention and are not, therefore, to be considered as limiting the scope of the invention, the present invention will be described and explained with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 provides an illustration of a representative embodiment of the present 10 invention, wherein a wick trimmer is in closed position.

Figure 2 illustrates a top view of the first cutting arm.

Figure 3 illustrates a top view of the second cutting arm.

Figure 4 illustrates an alternative view of the second cutting arm.

Figure 5a illustrates a side view of the first cutting arm.

15 Figure 5b illustrates a side view of the second cutting arm.

Figure 6 provides an illustration of a representative embodiment of the present invention, wherein the wick trimmer is in an open position and is also shown along with a candle, candle container and wick.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a wick trimmer. More particularly, the present invention relates to a wick trimmer with a measuring foot that facilitates the effective cutting of a wick to an appropriate length.

5       Figure 1 provides an illustration of a representative embodiment of the present invention, wherein a wick trimmer 20 is in a closed position 22 that includes a first cutting arm 30, a second cutting arm 32, a measuring foot 34, a pin 36, and a debris tray 38. In this embodiment, the measuring foot 34, which is also referred to as a base or an end, has a uniform thickness of about 1/4". This thickness is the most presently preferred thickness of 10 the preferred embodiment. However, other presently preferred embodiments not shown in Figure 1 have a thickness of between about 1/8" and about 7/8" or more preferably, a thickness of between about 1/8" and about 1/2". In some embodiments, the thickness is uniform and in others it is not. These thicknesses, combined with the sturdy, stainless steel material out of which the wick cutter is made, facilitate a clean, consistent cut of the wick.

15       As can be seen in Figure 1, the debris tray 38 is formed from a top portion of the measuring foot 40 and a top portion of a base of the first cutting arm 42. When the wick trimmer is in the closed position 22, as is shown in Figure 1, a trimmed portion of a wick 44 (not shown) sits within the debris tray 38 and can be easily removed from a candle 46 (not shown) or from a candle container 48 (not shown). Also shown in this embodiment of the 20 present invention are oval handles 50, which aid a user 52 (not shown) in manipulating the wick trimmer 20.

In addition, Figure 1 shows a middle portion of the first cutting arm 54 and a middle portion of the second cutting arm 56 that are both angled. The angular configuration allows

the first cutting arm 30 and the second cutting arm 32 to overlap such that pin 36 can securely couple the first cutting arm 30 and the second cutting arm 32.

Figure 2 shows a top view of the first cutting arm 30. This view highlights the top portion of the first cutting arm 42 that forms the debris tray 38 when the wick trimmer 20 is 5 in the closed position 22.

Figure 3 shows a top view of the second cutting arm 32. This view highlights the top portion of the measuring foot 40 that forms the debris tray 38 when the wick trimmer 20 is in the closed position 22.

Figure 4 shows an alternative view of the second cutting arm 32. This view highlights 10 the thickness of the measuring foot 34.

As seen in figure 5a, a first portion of the first cutting arm 76 and a second portion of the first cutting arm 78 form a top angle of the first cutting arm 58 and a third portion of the first cutting arm 80 and a fourth portion of the first cutting arm 82 form a bottom angle of the first cutting arm 60. Similarly, in figure 5b, a first portion of the second cutting arm 84 and a 15 second portion of the second cutting arm 86 form a top angle of the second cutting arm 62 and a third portion of the second cutting arm 88 and a fourth portion of the second cutting arm 90 form a bottom angle of the second cutting arm 64.

Figure 5a shows a side view of the first cutting arm 30. This view illustrates an embodiment of the present invention where the top angle of the first cutting arm 58 is 20 different than the bottom angle of the first cutting arm 60. In this particular, non-limiting example, the top angle of the first cutting arm 58 is about 105.00° and the bottom angle of the first cutting arm 60 is about 105.75°. Figure 5b shows a side view of the second cutting arm 32. This view illustrates an embodiment of the present invention where the top angle of

the second cutting arm 62 is the same as the bottom angle of the second cutting arm 64. In this particular, non-limiting example, the top angle of the second cutting arm 62 and the bottom angle of the second cutting arm 64 are both about 105.00°. Thus, when the first cutting arm 30 and the second cutting arm 32 of Figures 5a and 5b are coupled together, 5 variable cutting strength is created along a cutting edge 66 because of the difference in angles between the bottom angle of the first cutting arm 60 and the bottom angle of the second cutting arm 64. This embodiment shows that the most presently preferred difference in angle between the bottom angle of the second cutting arm 64 and the bottom angle of the first cutting arm 60 is about 0.75°. In other presently preferred embodiments, this difference is 10 between about 0.25° and about 1.25°, more preferably between about 0.35° and about 1.15° and, most preferably between about 0.50° and about 1.00°. This variable cutting strength in part contributes to the surprisingly successful cutting results of the wick trimmer 20, when compared against other wick cutters.

In addition, in other embodiments, a top angle of the first cutting arm 58 and a top 15 angle of the second cutting arm 62 have a range of between about 100° and about 110°.

Figure 6 provides an illustration of a representative embodiment of the present invention, wherein the wick trimmer 20 is in an open position 70. This embodiment also shows candle 46, candle container 48 and wick 72. This embodiment shows how the first cutting arm 30 and the second cutting arm 32 allow the wick trimmer 20 to fit within candle 20 container 48. It also illustrates how measuring foot 34 is placed against a top surface of candle 74 in order to accurately measure the length of the wick 72 that should remain after trimming.

Thus, as discussed herein, the embodiments of the present invention embrace the field of wick trimmers. More particularly, the present invention relates to a wick trimmer with a measuring foot that facilitates the effective cutting of a wick to an appropriate length.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing 5 from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is, therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. All changes that come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

10           What is claimed is: